Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04900 241108 Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 241020 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9151 INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

SECRETSAIGON 4900

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, VS

SUBJECT: GVN PLANS TO REQUEST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

REF: SAIGON 4386

- 1. GVN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT THIEU EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR PRESENTATION ON VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS AT SAN CLEMENTE. THIEU WILL STRESS CRITICIAL IMPORTANCE OF NEXT FOUR YEARS, NEED FOR MAJOR RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN SHORT-RUN TO CREATE CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE AND POLITICAL STABILITY, AND NEED FOR ACHIEVING SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH AND REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON AID IN LONG-RUN. HE WILL ASK FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT OF \$720 MILLION IN CY 1973 (INCLUSIVE OF THAT ALREADY PROGRAMMED), AND TOTAL OF \$1.611 BILLION IN YEARS 1974-1976. PROJECT ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS, ADDITIONAL TO ABOVE AMOUNTS.
- 2. THIEU ALSO EXPECTED TO STRESS NEED FOR EARLY US COMMITMENT TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS, FOR US SUPPORT IN APPROACHING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND ENCOURAGEMENT US INVESTMENT IN VIETNAM. THIEU EXPECTED TO ASK FOR IMMEDIATE STEP- UP IN BILATERAL AID BECAUSE OF URGENCY OF NEED, AND FOR US TO TAKE APPRORIATE INITIATIVE IN ESTABLISHING MULTILATERAL PROGRAM FOR FUTURE.
- 3. GVN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THIEU WILL INCLUDE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE AND THEIR DEPUTIES. THIS GROUP WILL BE PREPARED DISCUSS VIETNAM'S AID REQUIREMENTS IN DETAIL. SECRET

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THEY ARE PREPARING DOCUMENTATION ON WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS, IMPORT COMPOSITION, EXPORT AND INVESTMENT POLICY, TAX AND MONETARY POLICY, RECONSTRUCTION AND REFUGEE REQUIREMENTS, RICE POLICY, ENERGY POLICY, AND OTHERS. THEY HOPE TO PRESENT THIS MATERIAL TO INTERESTED US CONGRESSMEN AS WELL AS TO USG OFFICIALS. BUU VIEN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY PARTY AND HE PREPARED DISCUSS DEFENSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. SAMPLE OF MATERIALS THAT HAS BEEN SEEN BY MISSION OFFICIALS OF HIGH QUALITY AND BELIEVE AID REQUIREMENTS CASE WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED BY THIS GROUP.

4. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF GAP AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROJECTIONS, INCLUDING AID REQUEST FOR 1973, EARLY NEXT WEEK.
BUNKER

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

^{***} Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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TAGS: EAID, VS
To: SECSTATE WASHDC

SS INFO PARIS

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